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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 001010

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [XF](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: MFA UNDERSECRETARY ON ARAB LEAGUE POSTPONEMENT

REF: SECSTATE 67135

Classified By: CDA FRANK URBANCIC REASON: 1.4 (B,D)

1. (C) Summary. Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Khaled Al-Jarallah told Charge on March 28 that although Tunisia has postponed the Arab League Summit due to lack of consensus on reform, the topic of reform is now on the League's agenda and the GCC will continue to push it. End Summary.

(C) Summit's Postponement  
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2. (C) Charge had requested the appointment with Al-Jarallah to deliver the Secretary's Oral Message (ref A). With Tunisia's postponement of the Arab League Summit, he inquired about the reason for delay and the prospect of reform among Arab League countries and within the League itself. Al-Jarallah said Tunisia had made the decision by itself to postpone the Summit after it became apparent that there was deep division among members regarding the reform agenda. He said it would have been difficult for Tunisia to tell the leaders to come when there was no consensus among the foreign ministers. Al-Jarallah said that several foreign ministers wanted the summit to go on as scheduled, but he affirmed that "Tunis made the right decision to postpone". He admitted it was not easy to postpone a summit but said that the League now "needs time to recover from this situation." He expressed his concern however that Tunisia had not set a new date for the postponed summit.

(C) Reform on the Agenda  
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3. (C) Al-Jarallah stressed that political and social reform was a "hot issue" and that Kuwait and other members of the GCC would continue pushing it within the Arab League. He said a draft reform paper was already circulating, describing the document as "perfect." According to Al-Jarallah, the paper addresses the issues of education, democracy, the role of women, and human rights. He said the work now was to build upon this initial draft. "Kuwait will do our best to achieve targets and progress on these issues," he said, adding that some countries are ready to accept and welcome these ideas. He said the issue would now receive more attention among the Arab media and officials and that such discussion would be "good for the Arab world." Despite Charge's inquiry, Al-Jarallah avoided discussion of the positions of other Arab League members or identifying the authors of the draft.

(C) Internal Arab League Reform  
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4. (C) Al-Jarallah also confirmed that there was disagreement among Arab League members regarding reforming the organization itself. Speaking of Arab League Secretary General Amer Moussa, the Undersecretary said: "Although he appears to be pushing (reform) for the Arab League, he is not. He is trying only to do something for himself." Al-Jarallah said the GCC countries would offer other ideas for reforming the organization, but did not specify what those would be.

URBANCIC